BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

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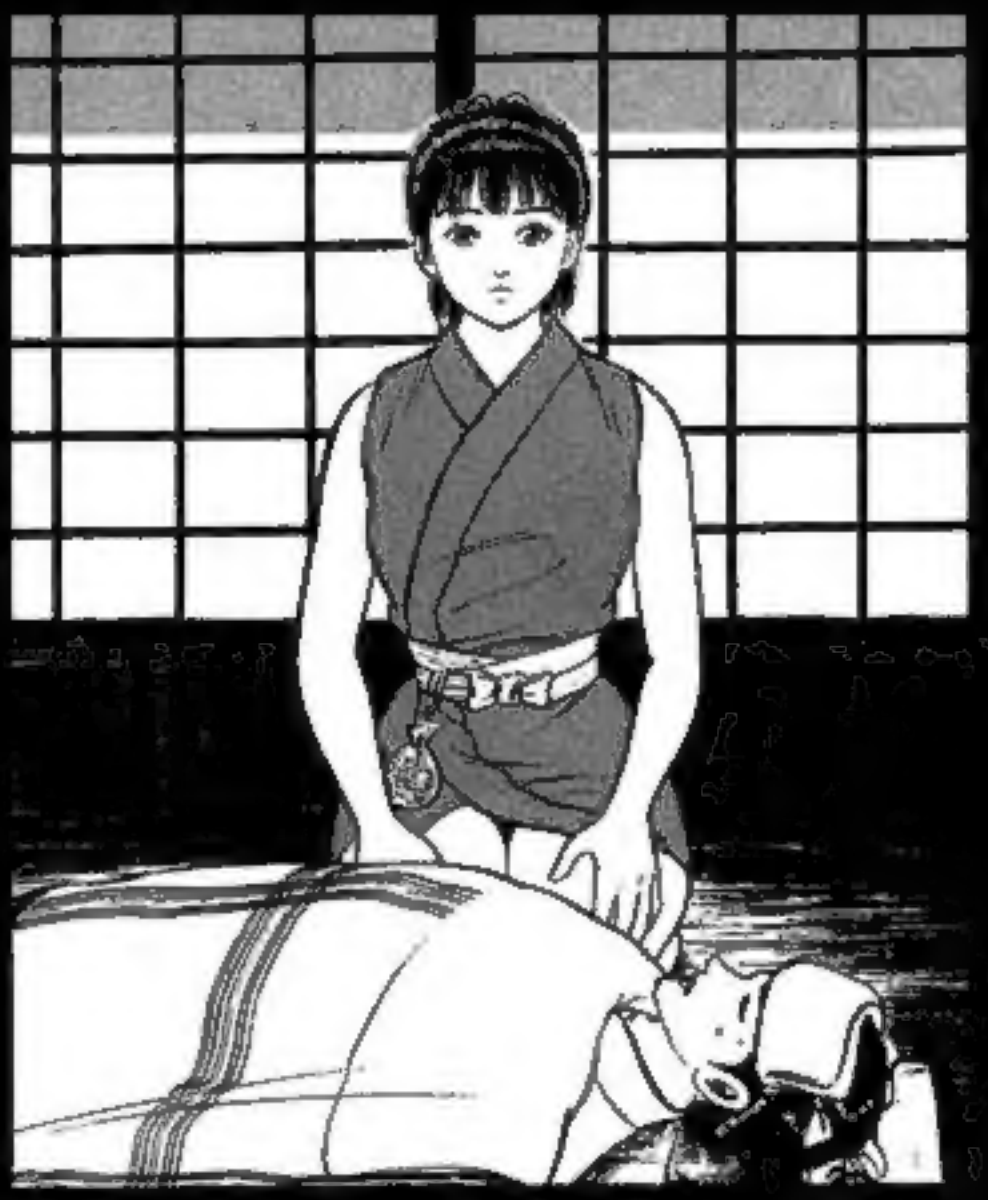
AZUMI

14

KIKU'S CHOICE

KOYAMA YŪ



AZUMI

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Chapter 1: Getting Closer

I'LL BE ENDING UP...

HOW-EVER...

YES.

CAN YOU DO IT!?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT !?

PANT

PANT

PANT

GET-TING YOUR KI-MONO ...

ALL COV-ERED IN MUD...

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING... DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT STUFF!!

I'M SORRY...

COULD YOU

TAKE THE KI-MONO

FROM BELOW AND

THEN, THE SASH...

AL-RIGHT ...

THEN,

I'LL TURN... O-OVER THERE...

I'LL LIFT YOU UP.

.....

.....

.....

.....

THEY'RE ALL FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR YOU!

I FOUND YOU.

AND I MUST INFORM EVERYONE THAT

I'LL TRY SEARCHING FOR AN ANTIDOTE.

YES...

I'LL ASK THEM TO PRETEND TO KEEP UP THE SEARCH FOR YOU...

AH, OBVIOUSLY, I WON'T HAVE THEM RUSHING HERE.

PLEASE, WAIT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

I THINK THAT THIS PLACE...WILL BE HARD FOR THE YAGYŪ TO FIND...

DON'T GO.

PLEASE,

ALL THE TIME.

NEAR ME,

STAY,

PLEASE,

NEAR ME,

YOU STAY,

I WANT THAT,

ALL THE TIME ...

MORE THAN AN ANTI-DOTE...

IT'LL BE GONE.

BY TO-MOR-ROW...

THE POI-SON ...

I'LL STAY NEAR YOU ALL THE TIME!!

UNDER-STOOD!!

.....

.....

.....

.....

WHEN YOU FEEL BETTER, WE'LL GO WHERE EVERYONE IS WAITING!

TO-MOR-ROW,

THANK YOU... SHUNJIRO-DONO...

I'LL GO BUY SOME FOOD FROM AN HOUSE NEAR HERE.

YOU'RE WEARING... THOSE DRENCHED CLOTHES...

WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK WAS...TO BE FOUND BY SHUNJIRO-DONO!!

AND I EVEN BOUGHT SOMETHING FOR TO-MORROW!!

I FOUND A VERY GENTLE FAMILY

.....

THERE'RE EGGS TOO, THEY'LL GIVE YOU STRENGTH!!

HA HA HA HA.

WELL, NOW I'M BORROWING FROM TENZAN-DONO.

AND AFTER THINGS WENT THAT WAY...

THE SMALL POCKET MONEY I HAD WHEN I RAN FROM HOME DIDN'T LAST...

W-WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY !?

LOOK, EVEN STRAW SAN-DALS!!

.....

THIS SMALL HUT IS AWAY FROM THE STREET AND THANKS TO THE BAMBOO GROVE SHADOWS IT CAN BE HARDLY SEEN.

SO, PLEASE RELAX AND REST.

YES!!

LAST NIGHT'S HEAVY RAIN SEEMED SO UNREAL.

AH... WHAT A NICE WEA-THER.

LET'S PREPARE SOME RICE BALLS FOR LUNCH!!

OH!!

SHUN-JIRO-DONO...

SINCE WE'VE GOT MISO TOO, LET'S MIX IT IN TOO!!

.....

.....

.....

THEY SHOULD BE REALLY TASTY.

SHIN-JIRO-DONO...

THERE'RE MORE. YOU MUST EAT A LOT. AND PLEASE, DRINK THE EGGS TOO.

.....

YES.

ALRIGHT, IT'LL BE PERFECTLY DRY BY TO-MORROW'S MORNING.

OR, BETTER, YOU MUST SLEEP.

AZUMI-SAN, YOU SHOULD SLEEP.

OR, CAN'T YOU SLEEP BECAUSE IT STILL HURTS!?

AREN'T YOU SLEEPY!?

IT DOES-N'T HURT.

LET'S SLEEP SOUNDLY!

I'LL SLEEP TOO.

I'LL SLEEP.

CAN'T YOU SLEEP!?

RIBBIT
RIBBIT
RIBBIT
CRIMM
CRIMM
RIBBIT
RIBBIT
RIBBIT

GOOD MORN-ING!!

OH!!

ALREADY FINE!!

I'M

H-HOW'RE YOU!?

THANK GOOD-NESS ...!!

I STAND UP!!

AND THE TONGUE PARALYSIS IS GONE TOO!!

18

I'LL GO WASH YOUR KIMONO ALONG WITH THE DIRT ON ME AND CHANGE.

THERE WAS A SMALL RIVER IM-MEDIATELY NEAR, RIGHT?

SH-SHUNJIRŌ-DONO... SHUNJIRŌ-DONO.

W-WHAT'S WRONG!?

WHAT A RELIEF ...!!

MY HEAD FELL SO MUCH...

I'M GLAD!! I'M REALLY GLAD THAT YOU FEEL BETTER, AZUMI-SAN!!

AH HA HA HA HA.

IT'S THANKS TO YOU, SHUN-JIRO-DONO.

WHAT HAP-PENED !?

IT'S SAKON ...

IS THAT THE YAGYŪ WHO TOLD YOU HE DESIRES TO HAVE A DUEL WITH YOU...?

YES...

I WONDER IF HE...WON'T FIND THIS HUT...

SO, THAT MAN IS SAKON ...

I THINK THAT, FROM THAT FAR, IT CAN'T BE SEEN DUE TO THE SHADOWS OF THE BAMBOO GROVE...

PHEW

HE WENT AWAY...IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T NOTICE IT!!

AAAH... THANK GOODNESS...

ドッ
ドッ
ドッ

!!

H-HEY...

I-I'M SORRY...

PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...

EH!!

I'M HAPPY.

.....

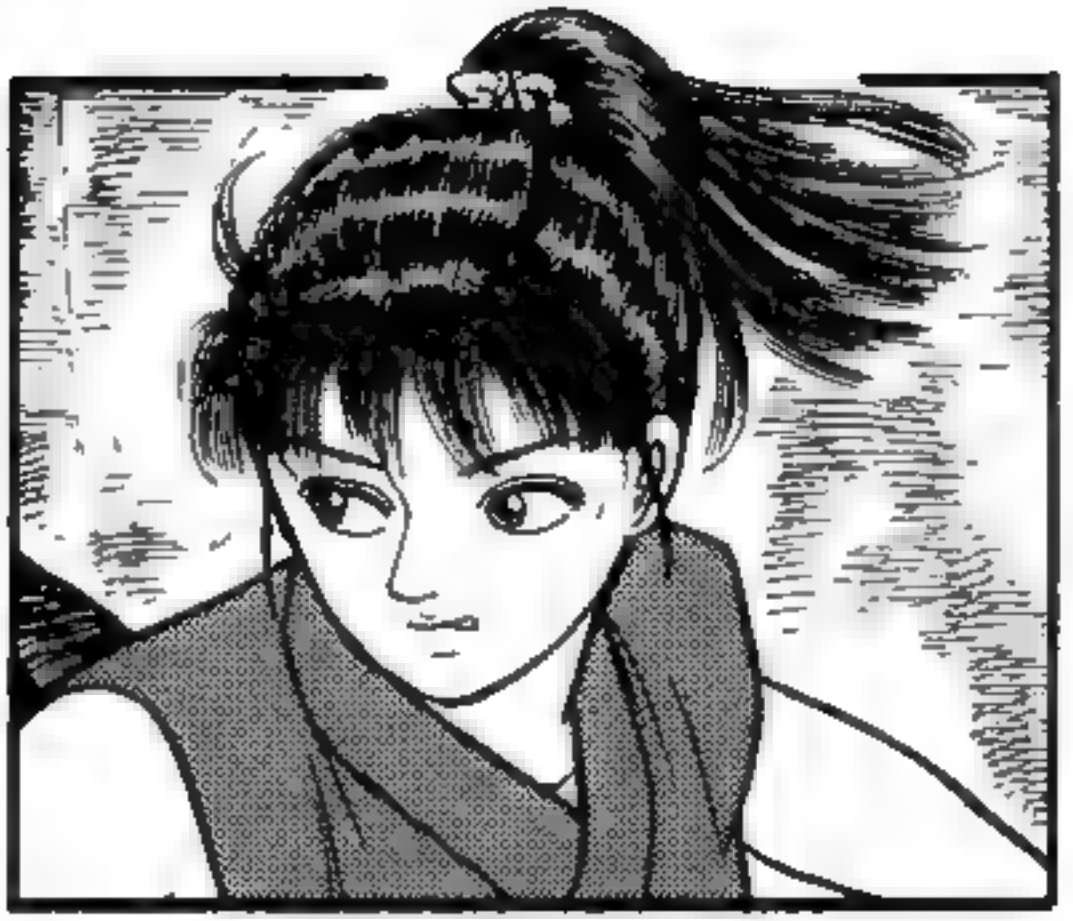
I'M HAPPY !!

AZUMI-SAN...

I...I...

.....

A...



A-ZUMI

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BY WRIGHT

EDITING BY
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Chapter 2: Power And Right

……

……

……

3

KIKU... IT'S TRUE!

NOW... I'M...

ARE AT THEIR HAPPIEST WHEN THEY LEAN AGAINST THE MAN THEY ADORE...AND RECEIVE A TIGHT EMBRACE

WOMEN YOU KNOW,

IS SO AT EASE...

IT'S A PLEASANT FEELING AND MY MIND...

FEELING INCREDIBLY HAPPY...

AAAH, AZUMI-SAN!!

AZUMI-SAN!!

……

ドッ

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ドッ

……

……

……

……

……

YES...

SHUN-
JIRŌ-
DONO
...

EH!?

I...

A MAN WITH A WO-MAN...

I STILL... HAVEN'T DONE...

THOSE THINGS A MAN WITH A WOMAN DO...

!!...

EH!!

I-I SEE...SO THAT'S IT...

I MEAN...EVEN SAKON DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HER...

I SAW ONCE... BEFORE ...

ON A NIGHT'S FESTI-VAL...

CASUAL PAR-TNERS AND PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T LOVE EACH OTHER, DOING THAT...

AND...I EVEN KNOW THAT VIOLENT MEN DO THAT TO WOMEN AGAINST THEIR WILL.

WITH THE MAN I LOVE...

I WANT IT TO BE...

WHEN THE TIME TO DO THOSE THINGS...

COMES ...

HOW-EVER... I...

IT'S SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE DONE BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER...

M-ME TOO.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHUN JIRO-DONO !?

I...

ドックン

ドックン

.....

.....

ドックン

ドックン

.....

.....

!!

LOVE YOU, SHUN-JIRŌ-DONO...

FOR HOW LONG I'VE BEEN...

ドックン

AAAH!! AZUMI-SAN...

SHE EVEN SAYS SHE'D BE FINE TO SLEEP WITH ME...

ドッ"ク"ン

AAAH...

IT'S THE FIRST TIME... I'VE BEEN SO DRAWN INTO... CONSUMED WITH YEARNING FOR A WOMAN...

AND AZUMI-SAN...LOVES ME...

ドッ"ク"ン

...SOMEONE LIKE ME...

WITH SOME-ONE LIKE ME...

ドッ"ク"ン

ドッ"ク"ン

.....

.....

.....

ドッ"ク"ン

ドッ"ク"ン

ド

TO KILL KATO KIYOMASA AND OTHER FAMED MILITARY COM-MANDERS...

SHE BELIEVED IT WAS PROPER TO RECEIVE ORDERS

AZUMI-SAN GREW UP RECEIVING STRICT BUJUTSU TRAINING TO BECOME AN ASSASSIN...

FOR BETTER OR WORSE...AZUMI-SAN'S ACTS HAVE GREATLY CHANGED OUR WORLD...

AND THEN, SHE'S BEING CHASED BY THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE...

OOO

THEN...NO MATTER HOW UNBELIEVABLE IT IS...SHE SAID SHE KILLED THAT IEYASU TOO...

10

...WHO'RE CONTINUOUSLY...

TRYING TO TAKE HER LIFE...

HOW ON EARTH... COULD I BE OF ANY HELP TO HER!?

.....

WHO CAN'T PROTECT HER AND CAN ONLY WATCH HER FIGHTING FROM AFAR AS NOT TO HINDER HER...

I'M JUST SOMEONE

SOMEONE WHO'S TOO MUCH OF A PATHETIC COWARD... AM I NOT RIGHT?

AS A MAN, I'M...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LOVE AZUMI-SAN... AS A MAN, I...

AS I AM NOW...I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE MEANS TO PROTECT HER TILL THE END AS A MAN...

FOR EXAMPLE... EVEN IF WE FLED AND HID IN A PLACE WHERE HER PURSUERS COULDN'T FIND HER...

CAN'T BE OF ANY USE TO HER...

AAAH... I'M A MAN WHO...

WOULDN'T BE THAT...ENDING UP AS JUST AN ACT TO SATISFY A MAN'S... MY DESIRES!?

AND WHILE SITTING BY...TO HAVE THAT KIND OF MAN AND WOMAN RELATIONSHIP NOW... WITH AZUMI-SAN...

I WANT TO HOLD HER!!

HOW-EVER... HOWE-VER...

ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ

……

ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ

……

……

EH!?

PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...

I-I'M SORRY ...

I CAN'T DO IT...

NO!

NOT LIKE ME!?

DO YOU...

.....

.....

I'M DIRTY WITH BLOOD!?

IS IT BECAUSE ...

.....

.....

IT'S NOT THAT ...

NO!!

EH!?

.....

I'M...NOT WORTHY OF YOU...

T-THE RIGHT ...!?

I HAVEN'T GOT THE RIGHT TO...

PLEASE, FORGIVE ME.

AND THE OTHERS THAT YOU'RE FINE...

I'LL GO INFORM T-TEN-ZAN-DONO...

AND YOUR BODY RECOV-ERED...

.....

.....

DON'T LET IT CONCERN YOU.

UHM ...

.....

.....

IT'S THANKS TO YOU, SHUNJIRŌ-DONO, THAT I RECOVERED.

AH HA HA HA...

SOMEHOW...IT WASN'T THE CASE FOR ME TO ASK YOU...

S-SURE...

T-THEN... SEE YOU ON THE HIGHWAY...

NOT AT ALL... NOT AT ALL...

17

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

!!

DID YOU FIND AZUMI-SAN!?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN!? YOU DIDN'T COME BACK LAST NIGHT...

SHUN-JIRO-KUN!!

TODAY TOO EVERYONE SPLIT AND IS GOING AROUND SEARCHING FOR HER.

REALLY, I'M GLAD!!

WHAT A RELIEF !!

IS THAT SO!?

.....

WHERE'S AZUMI-SAN!?

.....

SO... WHERE'S SHE!?

HUH !?

DID I DO THE WRONG THING!?... I DON'T KNOW...

I...

TENZAN-DONO...

UHM !?

HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED!?

WHAT'S WRONG, SHUNJIRO-KUN!?

T-THE TRUTH IS...

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サワ

サワ

サワサワ

サワサワ

IT'S LIKE... I RAN AWAY...

WAS IT THE WRONG THING TO DO!?

YOU'RE A BIG MORON!!

DAMN RIGHT IT WAS!!

I HAVEN'T ANY ASSETS TO HIDE AND SHELTER HER SOMEWHERE!

I DON'T HAVE ANY POWER AT ALL !!

W-WHY !?

WOULD IT HAVE BEEN APROPER FOR A MAN LIKE ME, WITH ONLY HIS DESIRE, TO SLEEP WITH HER!?

A MAN WHO CAN ONLY WATCH HER BATTLES WITH ASSASSINS...

WOULD WANT YOU TO PROTECT HER FROM ASSASSINS OR EVEN ASSIST IN HER FIGHTS WITH THEM?!

DO YOU THINK THAT AZUMI-SAN

EVERYDAY SHE'S SO ALONE...NOT HAVING SOME PEACE OF MIND...

ALWAYS ALONE, WITH HER LIFE AT RISK...

SEEKING EVEN BUT A SINGLE MOMENT OF PEACE!

SHE WISHED TO SLEEP WITH YOU,

THERE-FORE... SHE SAID TO YOU THAT...

.....

DIDN'T YOU GET THAT!?

WILL LIKELY SINK DEEPER INTO LONELINESS THANKS TO HER HURT FEELINGS...

BEING REJECTED BY YOU, NOW... AZUMI-SAN...

YOU MORON !!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SLEEP WITH HER!?

AND SLEEP WITH HER!!

RUN BACK AT ONCE

.....

YES!!

.....

.....

27

PANT PANT

I ENDED UP DEEPLY HURTING AZUMI-SAN...

AAH... WHAT A MORON I AM...

PANT

HE'S RIGHT !!

PANT PANT

IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN THAT SHE WERE KILLED BY AN ASSASSIN,

I'LL HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS AND WON'T LET YOU GO!!

PANT

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO HESITATE FOR ANY-MORE!!

PANT

I COULD DIE TOGETHER WITH HER WITHOUT HESITA-TION!

INSIDE THAT BAMBOO GROVE...

PANT PANT

SHE'S OVER THERE !!

PANT PANT

AZUMI-SAN!!

PANT PANT PANT

IS SAKON ...

THAT MAN...

PANT PANT

IT'S SAKON WHO'S AIMING AT KILLING AZUMI-SAN!!

DRESSING CASUALLY IN BLACK... THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

THE SUNLIGHT GOT STRONGER AND NOW THE HUT CAN BE SEEN...

THIS IS BAD...

ドクン ドクン ドクン

HE'S LOOKING AT THE BAMBOO GROVE...

THERE'S A SMALL HUT, EH...

31

.....

ドッ ドッ

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Chapter 3: Desires And Consequences

HE'S GOING TO...

HE FOUND THE HUT...

AAAH... WHAT CAN I DO!?

HE'LL DISCOVER AZUMI-SAN...

WHAT TO DO...

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ドグン

ドグン

2

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ゴホッ

ゴホッ

ゴホッ

THAT COUGH... IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN A COLD...

……

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ゴホッ

ゴホッ

ゴホッ

!!……

.....

HUUUF

HUUUF

HUUUF

NO, BUT I'VE GOT SOME MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.

ARE YOU A DOC-TOR!?

HUUUF

HUUUF

AND SLOWLY ...

BREATH... DEEPLY...

BECAUSE OF THAT, HE'S TRYING TO PUT AZUMI-SAN IN A POSITION TO WANT A MORTAL DUEL...

WHAT A TYPICAL AND UNBELIEVABLY SELFISH THOUGHT OF A SWORDSMAN...

I SEE...THIS MAN REALIZES HE WON'T LIVE LONG...HE RISKED HIS LIFE AS A FENCER, SO NOW HE DESIRES A DUEL WITH AZUMI-SAN...

HE WANTS TO FACE THAT SKINNY AZUMI-SAN...

WITH THOSE THICK AND WELL TRAINED ARMS...

NOW...

!!.....

I COULD BE ABLE TO HELP AZUMI-SAN!!

I ALSO...

I COULD BE CAPABLE OF KILLING THIS MAN AS WELL...

NOW I...

ドッ

ドッ

THIS WOULD BE AN ACT TO SAVE AZUMI-SAN FROM HAVING HER LIFE STOLEN BY THIS MAN'S SELFISH DESIRE!

NO, THAT'S NOT IT!!

ドゥクン

ドゥクン

ME, MURDERING A MAN...

HOWEVER... HOWEVER...

ドゥクン

ドゥクン

COUGH COUGH COUGH COUGH

IT'S TO SAVE AZUMI-SAN, WHO I'D EVEN DIE FOR!

HOT...

OOO

!?

WHO...

ARE YOU!?

I... I'VE ...

BEEN CUUUT!!

C-CUT!!... I'VE BEEN CUT!!

!!

ONE OF THOSE GREATLY TALENTED PEOPLE...WHO FELL FOR AZUMI OR SOMETHING...

PRO-BABLY ...

!!

A... AZUMI-SAN...

AZU... MI...

...SAN ...

SO, IN SUCH A PLACE...THERE WAS AN SMALL HUT, IDEAL AS A PLACE TO WAIT AND RECOVER.

AZUMI ...

ガラッ

AZUMI...

DON'T TELL ME...

SHE GOT KILLED...

NO!! NO!!

NO WAY!! NO WAY!! NO WAY!!

AS IF AZUMI COULD BE KILLED!!

I MISS YOUU!!

COME BAACK!!

AZUMIII... I BEG YOUUU...

16

IT SHOULD BE TIME FOR THE EFFECTS OF THE POISON TO WEAR OFF...

FROM WHAT YOU TOLD, THAT WOMAN COULD BE AN ASSASSIN TOO...

WILL AZUMI REALLY COME BACK TO WHERE THAT TRAVEL COMPANION IS!?

EEEH...

I CAN SEE HER MANTLE AND HER BELONGINGS IN THAT CART...

SHE'LL COME BACK FOR SURE!!

I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO SETTLE THINGS SWIFTLY!

I KNOW !!

MUNENORI-SAMA... HEADED FOR EDO, SAYING THAT...HE WOULDN'T HAVE WAITED ANY MORE...WE MUST ALSO DEAL WITH AZUMI SWIFTLY AND FOLLOW HIM.

IF SHE'S WOUNDED BY BULLETS, WE CAN SLAY HER!

AND EVEN IF THEY MISS HER VITALS,

SHE'LL BE GUNNED DOWN, FROM THE BUSHES OVER THERE, AT POINT-BLANK RANGE!!

HURRY UP AND COME ...

HOT...

HURRY UP AND SHOW UP!!

SHOW UP!!

AH!!

!!

THE WORDS YOU SAID...

THAT YOU APPROVED OF ME AS A FENCER, THAT YOU WISHED FOR A FAIR DUEL,

WERE THEY JUST LIES?!

AN AMBUSH WHERE IF YOU WATCH KIKU...I'LL SHOW UP.

.....

THAT I'D PREDICTED THIS?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS ...

.....

.....

.....

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO!?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO SETTLE THINGS...

DON'T MIND THIS PLACE.

GH...

WANT TO WORK OVER ANOTHER COWARDLY STRATEGY !?

OR DO YOU...

DAMN YOUUU !!

DAMN YOUUU!

¡HOOO

¡¡MON

ズ゛゛゛゛

IIH!!

KIKU!!

AH!

AAA AH...

AAA H...

AZUMI!!!!

A-Zumi

TRANSLATED BY
GUREN

PROOFREADING
BY WRIGHT

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KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 104
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Chapter 4:
The Nightmarish Punishment

AZUMI!!

AAAAH! YOU IDIOOOT!

MADE YOU WORRY, HUH?

2

T- TEARS ...?

!?...

.....

.....
THANK YOU. YOU HID MY SWORD SO WELL FOR ME.

.....

.....

NOW THAT I CONSIDER IT...

FROM THE TIME SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY YESTERDAY TILL TODAY...

OOOO

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME...? ISN'T THAT BAD...?

AND BEING HAPPY TO THE POINT OF SHEDDING TEARS...

MEET-ING AZUMI ...

LIKE NEVER BEFORE...

I'VE BEEN SO SAD...

THIS IS BAD!

MY GOOD-NESS!

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...

I FELT SORROW LIKE A GAPING CHASM WAS OPENED IN MY HEART...

YOU SHOWED YOUR EMOTIONS AND BEHAVED ACCORDINGLY, CORRECT?

HM!

I'M SURE I TAUGHT YOU THAT'S THE MOST SHAMEFUL THING TO DO!

.....

THOSE WERE YOUR EMOTIONS, EH?

HEY, KIKU!

5

SO PLEASE DON'T PUNISH ME!

I SHOW MY EMOTIONS EVER AGAIN,

I WON'T

I-I'M SORRY! I WON'T DO IT ANYMORE!

DO YOU WANT TO GET... PUNISHED?

HAS SOME-THING ...?

SHUNJIRO AND TENZAN AREN'T COMING...

.....

.....

.....

.....

EVEN FEELING JOY, SADNESS, GETTING ANGRY, POUTING, EVERYTHING

IT'S NOT WORTH IT IF IT'S NOT A CALCULATED PERFORMANCE IN ORDER TO MANIPULATE YOUR ENEMY'S EMOTIONS!!

BECAUSE IT'S FAR MORE WORTHY TO MANIPULATE YOUR ENEMY'S EMOTIONS AS YOU PLEASE...

I'M SORRY, PLEASE DON'T PUNISH ME!

AM I WRONG?

BUT JUST NOW YOU LAUNCHED A RECKLESS ATTACK SPURRED ON BY RAGE,

ビ
ビ
ビ
ビ
ビ

AND AREN'T YOU SHOWING YOUR EMOTIONS EVEN MORE NOW?

.....
.....

IF YOU DON'T PUT ON A PERFORMANCE THAT MOVES MY HEART,

I'LL BE FORCED TO PUNISH YOU!

HM?

WHAT ISN'T?

THAT'S NO GOOD!

AHH!

YOUUU!

AZUMI!

8

AAAAAH! DAMMIT!

.....

.....

THOSE FEELINGS... HAVING BEEN SEPARATED FROM AZUMI...

OOOO

I'M SORRY.

FEELING SO SAD AND LONELY!

IT WAS MY FIRST TIME!

WAS THE FIRST TIME I FELT ...

EVEN THAT JOY...

WHEN SHE APPEARED BEFORE...

THEN...

.....

WHAT A GUY YOU ARE!!!

YOU FOOL!

OH NOOOO! I'VE SHOWN MY EMO-TIONS!

THAT'S NO GOOD!!!

WHAT HAVE YOU FAILED AT?

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'VE BECOME A FAILURE!!

.....

WHAT'S WRONG?

KIKU ...

AHAHAHAHA... HAHAHHAAHHA.... WAAHAHAHAHA!

.....

AZUMI!!!

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

TSK!

ザワ ザワ

ザワ ザワ

JUST A FLEETING MOMENT'S FANCY.

ABS-URD.

STARTED TO...

I WONDER... SINCE WHEN HAS MY HEART...

KIKU.

HM?

KIKU!

THE TRUTH IS...

.....

.....

.....

WHAT'S WRONG ?!

WHAT?!

BY SHUN-JIRO...

I...

WAS TURNED DOWN...

WHEN !?

SHUNJIRO TURNED YOU DOWN!?

SHUNJIRO SAVED ME.

AFTER I MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM SAKON...

EEEH...

.....

WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

IT SEEMS SOMEONE LIKE ME...

I WAS SO HAPPY I OPENED MY HEART TO SHUNJIRŌ BUT...

YES!

COME HERE!

YES!

KIKU ...

CAN I COME OVER THERE?

.....

.....

15

KIKUUUUU!!!! PLEASE HUG ME!!!

I WANT YOU TO HUG ME WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

LIKE THIS?

SQUEEZE

.....

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

I'M SORRY !!!

YES...

.....

I HAVE TO DO IT NOW!

IF I WANNA KILL HER, NOW'S THE TIME!

NOW!

THE PERFECT CHANCE! NOW!

WHEN YOUR TARGET TRUSTS YOU FROM DEEP WITHIN THEIR HEART, AND DROPS THEIR GUARD AND DEPENDS ON YOU...

THEN YOU STRIKE!

SHOCK AND PAIN!

THEN, THEY NOTICE WHAT HAPPENED AND THEIR FACE BEARS...

YOUR TARGET WON'T BE ABLE TO REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENED FOR A MOMENT!

AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

BUT SOON YOU'LL SEE DEFEAT AND CHAGRIN ON THAT FACE BEFORE THEY PERISH.

AND REGRET. PERHAPS EVEN SOME LAUGHTER FOR YOUR PERFECT DECEIT.

A TOTAL VIC-TORY!

IS TRULY

OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT AND SUCCESS

THAT VERY INST-ANT

IS TO BE ABLE TO TASTE THIS BLISS THAT ALMOST MAKES YOU SHIVER!

THE MOST RAP-TUROUS FEELING

AZUMIII
...

.....

KIKU!

STAB HER!

THAT'S IT!

KILL HER, KIKU!

KIKU!

KIKU!

WHAT IS IT?!

ガ ガ ガ ガ

ガ ガ

WHAT'S WRONG, KIKU!?

CAN YOU BREATHE?!

ピク ピク ピク ピク

KIKU!

.....

IF I DID THAT ...

.....

AZUMI

WOULDN'T ...

THAT ...

VANISH !?

WOULDN'T SHE DISAPPEAR ?!

HIC!
HIC!
HIC!
HIC!
DID YOU TRY TO STAB ME?
KIKU.
HIC!
HIC!
B-BUT I...
.....
LOVE AZUMI!!!
WAA AAH!

CALM DOWN.
KIKU.
.....

AAAAH! I'M SORRY!

SORRY!

KIKU!

DON'T PUNISH ME!!!!

I DON'T WANNA!

NO!

.....

.....

SCAAA-RED!!!

SCARED !!!

I'M SCARED!

GET IT TOGE-THER, KIKU!

AS IF I'D PUNISH YOU!

KIKU!

IT'S ALRIGHT!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY-THING!

DON'T WORRY!

I'LL PROTECT YOU!!

.....

DON'T WORRY !!!

U... UU... UHH H...

GOOD GIRL, GOOD GIRL.

.....

!!

!!

KIKU?

OKAY,

EVERY-
THING'S
FINE!!

.....

.....

.....

.....

AN-MIH!
AAAAAAAH!

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ

KIKU...

A-ZUMI

TRANSLATED BY
GUREN

PROOFREADING
BY WRIGHT

EDITING BY
KAZUHIKO

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Chapter 5: Kiku's Choice

ガクガク

オーック

……

AZUMI!!!

…

AZUMI…

I TRIED TO STAB YOU, YOU KNOW!

I'LL PROTECT YOU, KIKU, DON'T WORRY!

AZU-MIII!

AHHH... YOU'RE...

SO KIND... AND GENTLE!

YOUR CHEST...WAS SO SOFT... AND WARM...

AZUMIII...

AZUMIII!

YES.

WHAT A PLEASANT BREEZE!

WE'LL RIDE IT IN TURNS!

ALRI-GHT!

I'LL PULL IT FOR YOU!

HOP IN THE CART!

AZUMI,

OH, THIS IS NICE!!!

AZUMIII!

HAHAH!

IT'S SO NICE!!

KIKU!

SO, Y'KNOW, FORGET SHUNJIRO!

THAT GROUP OF SKILLED MEN AREN'T AFTER US NOW...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU FROM HERE ON!

OKAY, AZUMI!?

LET'S TRAVEL WITH ONLY THE TWO OF US FROM NOW ON!

I FEEL SO REF-RESHED!

TIME TO SWITCH!

OKAY!

ALRIGHT, AZUMI?!

.....

HAHA!

COME ON, LET ME PULL IT!

IT'S FINE... YOU CAN STAY ON IT ALL THE TIME...

.....

HAHA HA!!!

I'M NOT JUST GOING WEST WITH NO PURPOSE IN MIND...

YOU KNOW,

YEAH? UM?

KIKU.

FROM THE CAPITAL CITY...

FAR, FAR AWAY

WHERE IS THAT?

TANGO?

I'M TRYING TO GO TO TANGO...

I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TOO MUCH...AND AT THIS RATE, I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL ARRIVE...

DEAR YAE... I'VE MISSED HER AND I WANT TO GO SEE HER!

I'VE GOT A FRIEND,

TO DO WHAT?!

THEN WE'LL ALWAYS TRAVEL TOGETHER, RIGHT?

COME WITH ME, KIKU!

IS THAT SO...?

AZUMIII!

.....

ALWAYS!

YES!

HEY...

AZUMIII!

AZUMIII!

I'LL PROTECT YOU!

IT'S ALRIGHT! DON'T WORRY, KIKU!

ALWAYS!

AZUMI!!

AZUMI...

AZUMI!!

HM?

WARM... SOFT....

GENTLE.

I JUST WANNA BE HUGGED...

MY WHOLE BODY HAS BEEN WARM!

AND EMBRACED BY YOU!

MY CHEST HAS BEEN WARM...

SINCE BEF-ORE...

.....

NOW?

.....

HM?

I'VE FELT LIKE THIS SINCE I WAS BORN!

IT'S THE FIRST TIME...

HAHAH HAHA...

THAT'S RIGHT!

I DON'T KNOW WHY...

.....

AZUMI!!!...

THESE DANGO.... DELICIOUS!
YUP!
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, KIKU!?
YOU'LL NEVER GO AWAY AND ALWAYS, ALWAYS STAY WITH ME!
PROMISE ME THAT...
AZUMI... PROMISE ME!

PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY WITH ME UNTIL DEATH COMES!

BUT IF I END UP GETTING KILLED, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

TOGETHER TILL DEATH. I PROMISE YOU THAT.

YES.

YEAH! LET'S STAY TOGETHER!

TOGETHER UNTIL DEATH COMES!

AS IF YOU WOULD!!!

NO WAY...THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO CRY OVER!

.....

.....

WHAT?

HUH?

AND ALL OF MY BODY...

THE INSIDE OF MY HEAD

IT'S LIKE...

WERE ALL FULL OF YOU...

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME SINCE LAST NIGHT?

I DON'T GET ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!

.....

EMO-
TIONS...

EMO-
TIONS
YOU
KNOW...

ARE
USELESS...

Boss...

……
……
ドッ
ドッ
ドッ

ヒュ

ザワ

ザワ

ザワ

HUH?!

I WAS HONEST. I TOLD HER I WAS GOING TO MEET MY BOSS.

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO AZUMI TO GET AWAY FROM HERE? ARE YOU UNDER ANY SUSPICION?

YOU WERE QUICK.

.....

IT'S ALRIGHT. AZUMI IS AWARE...

THAT YOU AND MY COMRADES SHOULD BE FOLLOWING ME AROUND.

SO...DO YOU NEED SOME-THING?

"SOME-THING?!" ...YOU EVEN ASK...

IT'S NORMAL THAT WE DON'T MEET IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB...JUST AT THE START AND AGAIN WHEN IT'S DONE.

BUT IT'S ALREADY THE THIRD TIME.

I'M DONE WAITING!

YOU'VE ONLY GOT TWO OPTIONS!

ONE OR THE OTHER!

EITHER KILL AZUMI TONIGHT...

OR GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE LIKE THIS AND GET PUNISHED!

IF YOU CAN'T KILL HER TONIGHT, I'LL HAVE SAKUZO OR YAKICHI DO THE JOB!

IT'S HARDLY THE TIME TO GO MAKING EXCUSES!

YOU SLEEP WITH HER EVERY NIGHT! HER GUARD SHOULDN'T EVEN EXIST AS IT IS!

サワ"

!!

.....

KIKU...

DON'T TELL ME...

YOU PLANNED TO STEAL HER HEART...

BUT LOST YOURS TO HER INSTEAD?

KIKU!

DON'T WORRY,

I'LL PROTECT YOU!

MORE THAN ANY OTHER...

AND LOVES YOU MOST...

CARES FOR...

IT'S ME, WHO'S BEEN MORE THAN A PARENT TO YOU... WHO...

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE THIS COULD EVER HAPPEN, RIGHT?

.....

RIGHT, KIKU?

WOULD BE STOLEN BY A WOMAN,

THERE IS NO WAY ON EARTH YOUR HEART...

YOU ARE SO CUTE...

KIKU...

KILLING AZUMI... WHO IS...

AND WANTED ALL OVER THE LAND...

HUNTED BY THE AUTHOR-ITIES...

I WANT YOU, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, TO ACHIEVE SUCH A GREAT DEED...

ALWAYS!

TOGETHER UNTIL DEATH COMES!

AZUMI!!!...

HOW MUCH I...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND, KIKU...?

IF YOU DON'T, I'LL ENSURE YOU NEVER MEET AGAIN!

I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE VILLAGE AND PUNISH YOU!

TONIGHT YOU KILL HER, RIGHT?

NOTHING TO HESITATE OVER...

OH, MY KIKU...

YOU ARE SO CUTE!

ONE OR THE OTHER!

KILL HER TONIGHT

OR BE PUNISHED IN THE VILLAGE!

AZUMI.

YOU'LL KILL HER, EH, KIKU?

I'LL GIVE YOU ONLY TILL TONIGHT!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL PROTECT YOU!

ALWAYS TOGETHER!

AZUMI!!

AZUMI.

AZUMI.

AAAA AAAA HHHH

KILL HER TONIGHT!

!!

27

ザワ

ザワ

ザワ

……

……

KIKU …!?

KL..

……

……

KIKU
...

Kl...

29

BOSS
...

BOSS...

KL..
KKU
...

WHAT...
HAVE
YOU..

KIKU..

A-Zumi

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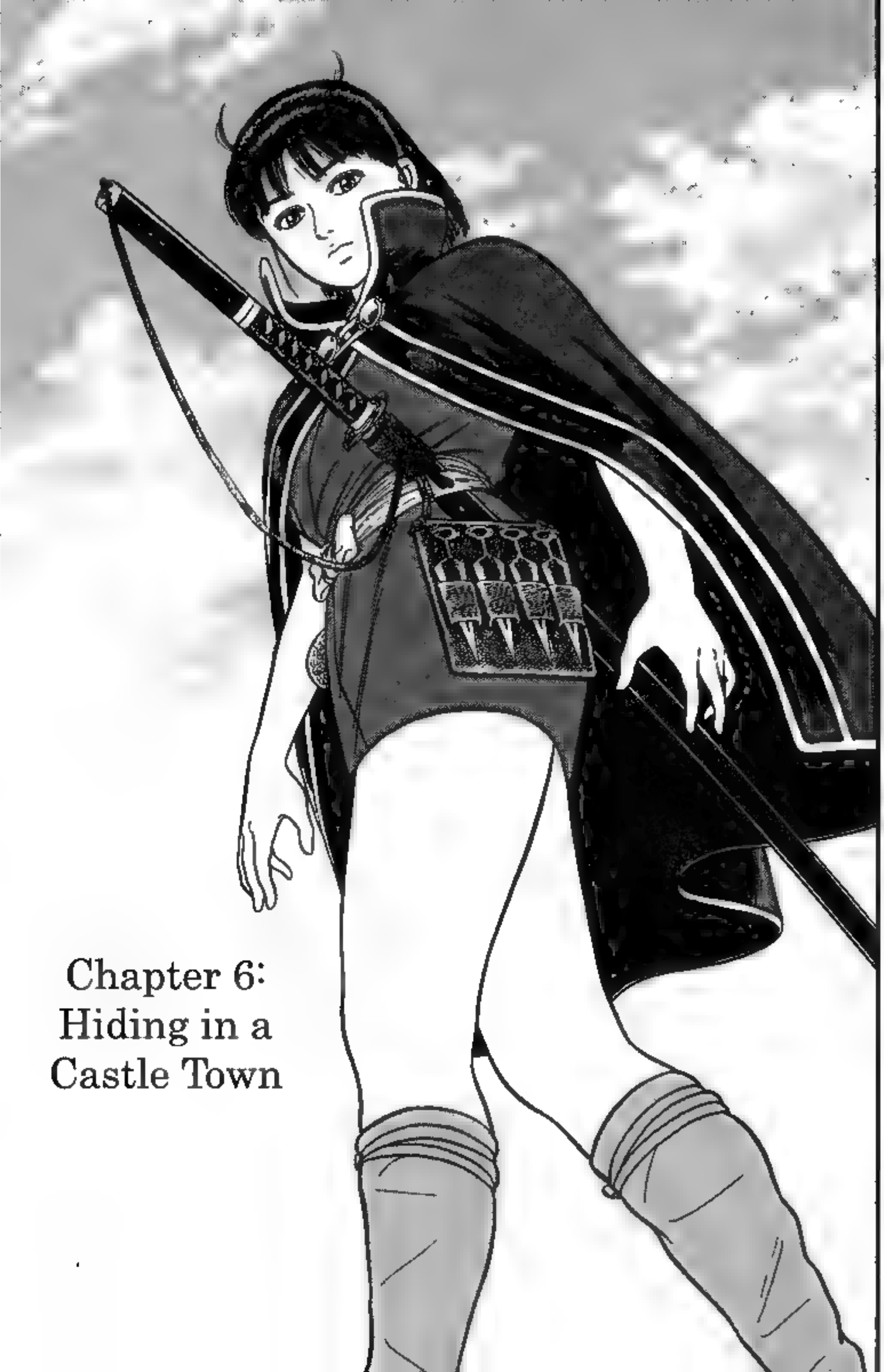


Chapter 6: Hiding in a Castle Town

A CHECKING STATION..WHAT DO WE DO, AZUMI?

UM...

LET'S ABANDON THE HIGH-WAY AND USE AN-OTHER ROAD!

2

LOOK, AZUMI! NEITHER SHUNJIRO

OR THAT BASTARD SAKON ARE COMING!

IF WE LEAVE THE HIGHWAY LIKE THIS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR OUR DISGUISED PURSUERS TO COME AFTER US.

.....

AND HAVE A RELAXING JOURNEY TOGETHER!

THIS WAY, WE CAN SCATTER EVERY-ONE!

ALRIGHT, LET'S MOVE!

AHAHAH HAHAHA!

KI-
KU-
UUU!

KI-
KU-
UUU!

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

チュン
チュン

KIKU, IT'S MORNING!

KIKU?

PANT
PANT
PANT

NO, I DIDN'T!

DID YOU FIND HIM!?

AS IF HE COULD DO THAT BY HIMSELF!

PERHAPS TO GET REVENGE ALONE?!

I SEE...

WHERE THE HELL DID MANTARŌ GO!?

EX-CUSE ME...

IS THERE BY CHANCE A DOCTOR AROUND?

I MADE HER DRINK SOME MEDICINAL HERBS TO BREAK THE FEVER, BUT IT'S NOT GOING DOWN...

PLEASE TELL ME WHERE HE IS...

WELL, OF COURSE THERE'S A DOCTOR IN THE CASTLE TOWN, BUT...

HUH?

!?

A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU WILL BE EASY PREY!

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS PAST THIS POINT!

WE WILL NOT!

PLEASE TELL ME WHERE THE DOCTOR IS.

I'LL BE FINE.

ボ
ボ
ボ
ボ
……
……

AFTER SHE'S HEALED, YOU'LL ALL PROTECT THEM...

BUT OF COURSE ....

THEY'RE TWO YOUNG WOMEN, TRAVELING... UNTIL THE SICK ONE IS CURED, COULD YOU...

I BEG OF YOU, MOTHER.

YES! OF COURSE!

YOU MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND HELP THEM TO THIS EXTENT. CAN YOU DO IT!?

AND WILL HAVE TO ESCORT THEM TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WITH-OUT THOSE MEN CATCHING ON...

I'VE ALREADY SENT SOMEONE TO CALL FOR THE DOCTOR, SO HE SHOULD BE HERE SOON.

SHE'S GOT A HIGH FEVER, RIGHT?

QUICK, COME IN!

IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT?

IT'D BE BETTER FOR KIKU IF SHE SLEPT INSIDE A HOUSE...

Oooo

AFTER LEAVING THE ROADS, THERE HAS BEEN NO TRACE OF PURSUERS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE'LL BE IN YOUR CARE.

EVEN WITH A SWORD...WITH A WOMAN'S THIN ARMS...

TWO WOMEN TRAVELING ALONE IS DANGEROUS...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPI-TALITY.

YES...

MANY UNPLEASANT THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, RIGHT?

ARE THERE SUCH DANGEROUS MEN IN THIS LAND?

YOU HAVE DONE US A FAVOR IN TAKING US IN, LIKE YOU'RE HIDING US...

THEY TORMENT THEM... AND THEN THEY KILL THEM!

JUST LIKE THE TWO OF YOU! THEN THEY...

THEY WAIT FOR YOUNG WOMEN, TRAVELERS

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

IT APPEARS THE DOCTOR WILL COME SOON!

DON'T WORRY! JUST SLEEP!

AZUMI...

NEVER YOU MIND, YOU FOOL! YOU'RE NO BURDEN AT ALL!

I REALLY... DON'T WANNA BE A...BURDEN FOR YOU...

SORRY... FOR ALL THIS...

.....

IT MUST BE STRESS THAT PILED UP...LAST NIGHT, YOU WERE HAVING A SCARY DREAM TOO...IT WAS A NIGHTMARE, RIGHT?

THE SICK WOMAN IS SOME-THING, TOO!

YEAH... GORGEOUS!

SHE'S A BEAUTY!

HEY...

YES...

IF THOSE MEN HAD SEEN THEM THEY'D HAVE BEEN VIOLATED FOR SURE!

MAYBE HE'S HIDING SOMEWHERE, WATCHING FOR A CHANCE...

I REALLY THINK HE MIGHT HAVE GONE OFF TO TAKE HIS REVENGE...

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MANTARŌ...

AS IF HE COULD KILL THEM ALL ON HIS OWN!

THAT'S WHY HE WENT ALONE!

HOWEVER, THESE MEN ARE BAD NEWS! EVEN IF WE WERE TO HELP, WE'D ALL BE KILLED!

HIS FATHER WAS KILLED AND HIS SISTER, LADY NATSU WAS ABDUCTED, GANG RAPED AND KILLED!

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...

MANTARŌ... HE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO DIE...

BUT HE WANTS TO TAKE THEIR GENERAL BISHAMONTEN DOWN TO HELL WITH HIM!

THEY ROAMED THROUGH THE LANDS LIKE STARVING STRAY DOGS.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, MANY MORE RÔNIN WERE CREATED.

ALSO AFTER THAT, DUE TO THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE'S POLICIES, MANY DAIMYÔ MET THEIR ENDS.

AFTER THE SIEGE OF ÔSAKA, THE RÔNIN WHO LOST THEIR LIVELIHOODS BEGAN TO FLOOD INTO SOCIETY

IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, THEY BANDED TOGETHER IN FACTIONS AND [illegible] PILLAGED WHAT THEY COULD.

ONE DAY FIFTY TO SIXTY RÔNIN INVADED AND SEIZED CONTROL OF THE POST TOWN!

IN THIS PROVINCE, THE TOZAMA DAIMYÔ WERE SURROUNDED BY THE FUDAI DAIMYÔ.

SEIZED UP AND TOOK THE COWARD'S PATH.

THE YOUNG RETAINERS OF THIS DOMAN WHO DIDN'T HAVE ANY REAL BATTLE EXPERIENCE...

THE DAIMYŌ TRIED TO EXPEL THEM FROM HIS LANDS, BUT AFTER FIFTEEN MEN DIED AND ANOTHER THIRTY WERE INJURED, HE WITHDREW HIS FORCES.

EVERY HOUSE IN THE POST TOWN BECAME THEIR DEN, THEY PLUNDERED SUPPLIES AND MONEY AND RAVAGED THE WOMEN.

YESTERDAY...A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER OF A SAMURAI WAS GANG RAPED BY THE LOT'S BOSS, A CERTAIN BISHAMONTEN, AND HIS COMRADES...AND WAS KILLED TOGETHER WITH HER FATHER WHO WAS THERE WITH HER...

MANY SKIRMISHES CONTINUED AFTER THAT

BISHA-
MON-
TEEEEN!
THIS IS
FOR MY
FATHER
AND MY
SISTER!!!

AHAHAH!!!

OHHH, SO YOU'RE THE ELDER BROTHER OF THE LOVELY SAMURAI DAUGHTER FROM YES-TERDAY?

Y-YOU...

BAS-TARD !!!!!

THANK YOU.

YOUR LITTLE SISTER...HAD A WONDERFUL BODY...

HOW TRAGIC ...

AHHH...

I AM MORE THAN YOUR PARENT!

I RAISED YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU...

I...ME...

A-A-AZUMI ...

AZUMI! HELP ME!

UUUU.... AHHH!!

I'LL PROTECT YOU!

DON'T WORRY !!

KIKU!

AZUMIII!

ANOTHER BAD DREAM, HUH?

AZU-
MIII!

IT'S ALRIGHT!
I'LL ALWAYS STAY
BY YOUR SIDE!

THEY'RE
JUST
FEVER
DREAMS...

DON'T
WORRY,
KIKU...

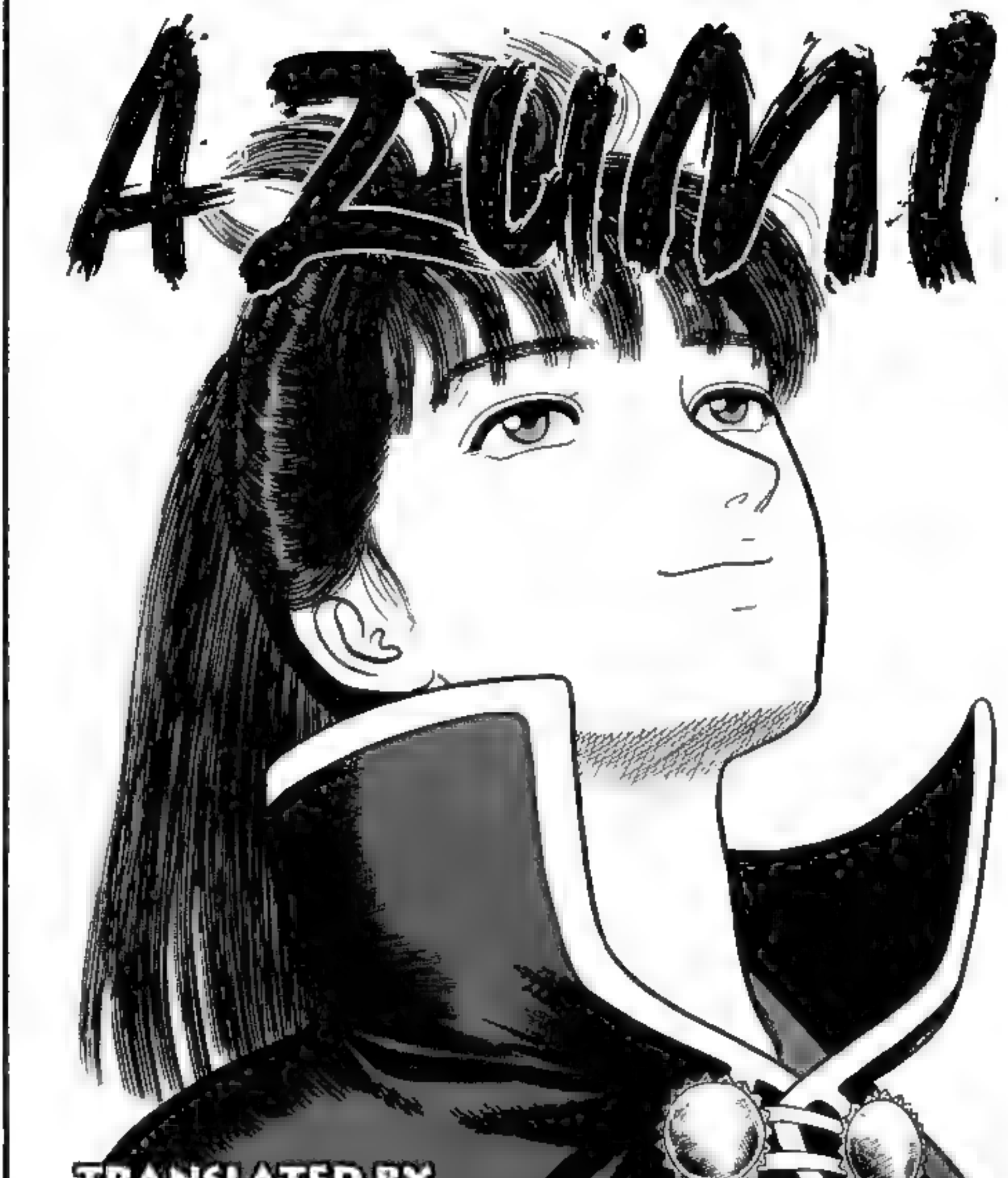
AZUMI...

HEY!
MANTARO...
MANTARO'S...

WHAT
HAPPENED?
DID YOU
FIND HIM!?

HE REALLY TRIED TO TAKE REVENGE BY HIMSELF!?
WHAT?!
H-HE WAS KILLED!?
KH...
WHAAAT?!
WH....
IT SEEMS... HIS CORPSE WAS PUBLICLY HUMILIATED AT THE POST TOWN!!!

AZUMI



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Chapter 7:
The Castle Town Circumstances

...THE PROCESSION WAS SAID TO PASS THROUGH THE DOMAIN OF THIS TOZAMA DAIMYÔ WHOSE POST TOWN WAS OCCUPIED BY A VIOLENT GROUP OF RÔNIN...

THE DESTINATION... WHERE THE SHOGUNATE'S GOLD INGOTS THAT WERE TAKEN, WAS *MT KUNÔ* IN *SURUGA*, WHERE IEYASU LAY IN REPOSE.

THIS LAND'S DAIMYÔ WAS FLUSTERED... HE KNEW THAT THE GOLD WOULD PASS THROUGH HIS DOMAIN.

2

IF THE RÔNIN WERE TO ASSAULT THE PRO-CESSION...

THE PROCESSION WOULD SURELY PASS THROUGH THE OCCUPIED TOWN...

NO...
WHAT IF...
PERHAPS...

THEY HAD COME TO INFILTRATE THE DAIMYŌ'S DOMAIN!?

THE RŌNIN GOT INFORMATION OF THE PASSAGE AND...DESIRING TO STEAL THE PROC-CESSION'S GOLD...

THE TOZAWA DAIMYŌ WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED WITHOUT FAULT!

IF THIS HAD COME TO PASS...

AT THE CASTLE, A STRATEGIC MEETING WAS HELD IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...

THE ONLY ANSWER WAS A DECISIVE BATTLE WITH THE RŌNIN...

THE LORDS AND RETAINERS OF THIS DOMAIN WOULD HAVE FACED DIFFICULTIES, LIKE LOSING THEIR COUNTRY, IF THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CLEAN THE RŌNIN IN A FELL SWOOP IMMEDIATELY

4

EVEN THE GUNS AND POWDER COLLECTED IN PREPARATION FOR THE BATTLE WERE STOLEN.

KEY MEN FOR THE OPERATION AND WHO SHOULD HAVE ACTED AS THE MILITARY COMMANDER, WERE SURPRISED IN BED AND ABDUCTED...

THEY WERE TOO EFFICIENT.

BEEN ABLE TO DO SUCH A THING?!

HOW COULD SOME MERE RONIN

WH-WHAT A THING TO DO!

FIRST OFF, HOW?!

ISN'T THAT STRANGE?!

HOW DID THOSE MEN GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE OUR OUR MILITARY LEADER AND THE OTHERS WERE LODGED?!

DOES THIS MEAN SPIES HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING US FOR SOME TIME NOW!?

IT MOST CERTAINLY IS!

AHH!

THAT GROUP OF RONIN, IN ADVANCE?

HAVE TOLD THOSE RUF-FIANS,

WOULDN'T SHOGUNATE SPIES

WAS A PLAN DEVISED FROM THE VERY START TO STEAL OUR DOMAIN?

WHAT IF... THIS...

IF THEY'RE AIMING AT WAGING WAR UPON US, WE'LL THREATEN THAT WE'LL KILL THEM...IT'S BETTER LEAVING THEM AS HOSTAGES.

NO...IF THEIR RETAINERS WERE ALL FURIOUS AT THEIR DEATHS AND CAME FOR OUR HEADS, WE'D TRULY BE IN PERIL...

SURELY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO DEAL WITH THEM FROM THE START!

IT'S TAKING A LOT OF RESOURCES TO MONITOR THEM!

LOCKING UP ALL THOSE PEOPLE WE ABUCTED...

.....

LAST NIGHT'S STRATEGY WAS GOOD TOO...I'M GETTING AN EVEN BETTER OPINION OF YOU, SAKAKURA... YOU'RE REALLY A CLEVER MAN...

I SEE...

IN THAT CASE_

THE GOLD WAS LIKELY TO BE THE TARGET OF THE RŌNIN_

THE PROCESSION TRANSPORTING THE SHOGUNATE GOLD WOULD HAVE PASSED THROUGH THIS DOMAIN IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS.

THE MILITARY COMMANDER AND KEY MEMBERS ENDED UP AS HOSTAGES.

AN NATURALLY, TO THE YOUNG SAMURAI WHO STILL WERE IN SERVICE AT THE CASTLE...

THESE FACTS WERE WELL KNOWN EVEN TO COMMON SOLDIERS IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE...

THIS DOMAIN WOULD BE CONFISCATED BY THE SHOGUNATE AND DESTROYED...

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

HER FATHER WAS ABDUCTED AND ENDED UP AS HOSTAGE...

DID YOU SEE LADY SHINO'S FACE?

LADY SHINO!

.....

LADY SHINO!

IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE...

.....

WE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO THINK...THAT SUCH A THING COULD HAVE HAPPENED...

LOSE OUR COUNTRY...AND FALL LOW AS THE RONIN WHO ROAM THE ROADS...?

WILL WE...

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO MY LITTLE SISTER!

MY MOTH-ER...

EVEN IF I COULD ENDURE THAT...

IS THAT HOW THE SHOGUNATE DOES THINGS!?

IT'S A DIRTY ME-THOD!

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO LADY SHINO!?

WHAT FILTHY INTRIGUES OF THE SHOGUN-ATE!!

SHIT!

AA AAH!

EXCUSE ME...

IS IT ALRIGHT IF I...?

YOUR ASPECT?

HAS SOME-THING BIG HAPPENED FOR YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT?

PLEASE...

NO, NO...

.....

AND ALSO HOW SIR KENNOSUKE LOOKED BEFORE...

PLEASE DO NOT PAY IT ANY HEED, AZUMI JUST NURSE YOUR COMPANION KIKU WITHOUT ANY CONCERN.

.....

AL-RIGHT ?

.....

IT'S CLEAR THEN. WHEN WE DIE, WE DIE TOGETHER.

NOT A SINGLE ONE MISSING, HM?

YOU'RE HERE, KENNOSUKE.

.....

.....

.....

.....

NO!! EVERYTHING IS FINE!

DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS FIND OUT!?

.....

.....

JOO

...LIKE THAT...

"IF YOU WANNA COME TO RESCUE THEM, THEN TRY!!"

THOSE MEN WERE PRETTY CONFIDENT AND SAID

ARE BEING IMPRISONED IS THE ANPUKUJI, RIGHT!?

ARE WE SURE THE PLACE WHERE LADY SHINO'S FATHER AND THE OTHERS...

JUST UP AHEAD...

OOH!

AS IF!

NO CHANGE OF HEART?

OOH!

STOLEN FROM ME, I CHOOSE THE PATH OF DEATH IN COMBAT AS A TRUE SAMURAI!

MORE THAN THE DISGRACE OF WANDERING THE ROADS AND HAVING MY COUNTRY

THINK ABOUT MANTARŌ'S REGRETS!

IF IT'S FOR LADY SHINO'S SAKE, I CAN DIE!

.....

I CANNOT ENTRUST MY MOTHER AND SISTER TO MY FATHER FROM NOW ON...

THERE'S ALSO THE PATH OF SURVIVAL THAT IS BECOMING BEASTS LIKE THOSE RONIN...

BUT I CAN'T!

GOES WITHOUT SAYING?

COULD YOU DO THAT!?

WITHOUT FALLING SO LAW AND DISGRACING MYSELF AS SUCH A BEAST, I'LL FIGHT WITH PRIDE

AS A SAMURAI! WITH THE GOAL OF RESCUING HER FATHER AND ALL THE OTHERS!

EVEN IF I FIGHT ALONE, I WILL SLAY MANY OF THEM!

AND DIE!

OOOH!

OOOH!

KAN-ZAE-MON!

HIKOMA !!

KEN-NO-SUKE!

BUNZŌ!

YEAH! OF COURSE!

WE WILL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS!

EVEN IF WE GO TO THE OTHER SIDE...

EVEN IF...

AL-RIGHT !!!

LET'S GO!

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

H-HERE WE GO!

ドッ ドッ ドッ ドッ ドッ ドッ

!! !! !!

HOOOH

HOOOH

HOOOH

WAAAH

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG

BANG BANG

OOOH!!

OOOH!!

ヒュガッ

ヒュン

ヒュバッ

!!

FATHER!

チャ!

25

FATHER!

AH!

24

FATHER..

ズ

ヒ

ズ

UHO HOHO!

THEY'RE SO STRONG!

S-STROO-OONG!

CLAP
UOOH!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

29

F-FATHER...

28

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"Azumi" v14 – End –

あずみ14　—きくの選択—

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